than the rate at which it was purchased by the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Steps to check illegal activities on Indo-Pak border

838. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to prevent illegal entry, smuggling of arms, by terrorists and clandestine narcotics trade from across the border of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Border Security Force which is guarding the Indo-Pakistan border is constantly on vigil. Surveillance has been intensified to the extent possible by various measures like intensified patrolling, induction of additional force on border, reduction of distance between border outposts by establishing new out-posts, utilisation of special equipment like portable search lights, hand-held torches, binoculars, etc. Wire obstacles are being raised at certain strategic points on Indo-Pakistan border.

Environment protection schemes

839. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes being undertaken in the country to protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance;

(b) whether any new schemes were launched in the country on June 5, 1988, on "The World Environment Day";

(c) whether it is a fact that protests are being staged by environmentalists in certain areas against the setting up of new irrigation and hydro-electric projects on the ground that they tend to destroy the environment; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Government has undertaken a number of schemes as given below to protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance:

1. Schemes for soil conseravtion, wasteland development, protection of watershed areas, desert-development, hill development and prevention of water logging, salinity and alkalinity for protection of land.

2. Schemes for conservation of both ground and surface water, flood control, prevention and control of water pollution and cleaning up the river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan.

3. Prevention and control of pollution of air.

4. Survey and protection of forests, afforestation programmes, development of non-conventional energy sources and schemes for substitution of wood.

5. Wildlife preservation through survey and protection.

6. Environmental Impact Assessment of development projects and prescription of conditions to minimise the environmental damage before the projects are sanctioned.

7. Conservation of marine ecosystems.

8. Management of wetlands and mangroves.